

Toxic metals:



- They originate both from the mining of the ores themselves and from associated industries. They include mercury, lead, cadmium, zinc, chromium and tin.
- In certain chemical forms, metals can be taken up directly by aquatic organisms. The metal can then become progressively more concentrated at each successive level of the food chain, a process known as **Biomagnifications**. In this way, they can pose a health risk to humans at the top of the food chain. Humans are also at risk from consuming contaminated drinking water.

Toxic metals:



- The presence of inorganic chemical pollutants in water can cause cancer and birth defects. In addition, sufficient concentrations of these chemicals in water can kill fish and other aquatic life, and cause lower crop yields due to plant damage.
- A detailed description of some heavy metal sources and their effect on human health is given in the following slides: